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ABSTRACT

Data on the status of women students in Connecticut institutions of higher education are examined. Trends include the following: as of fall 1980, there were 84,838 women enrolled in Connecticut collegiate institutions, representing 53 percent of total enrollment; women were in the majority at the undergraduate and graduate levels and comprised 34 percent of those enrolled in professional programs; enrollment of women grew 20 percent from 1976 to 1980, while enrollment of men declined one percent; increased female enrollment is largely in the part-time undergraduate category; undergraduate women, independent of age, are more likely than men to enroll on a part-time basis (43.8 percent compared to 36.7 percent); at the graduate level, 74.3 percent of women were enrolled part time in fall 1980, compared to 70.8 percent of men; women constitute more than 67 percent of the graduate enrollment at the state colleges and less than 44 percent at independent institutions; women received 59.8 percent of the associate degrees, 50.1 percent of the bachelors degrees, and 52.4 percent of the masters degrees awarded in June 1980; in 1980 they received 29.1 percent of the doctoral degrees and 27.3 percent of the first-professional degrees; in June 1980, 25 percent of the men graduating at the baccalaureate level received degrees in business and management, compared to 12.5 percent of the women; at the graduate level, 33 percent of the men received masters degrees in this field, compared to 10 percent of the women; and women received 75 percent of the bachelors and masters degrees awarded in the field of education in June 1980. (SW)

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June 1981

ENROLLMENT OF WOMEN IN CONNECTICUT INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION

This report reviews the status of women students in Connecticut institutions of higher education. It is the third in a series examining current trends in higher education enrollment.

Highlights

- There were 84,838 women enrolled in Connecticut collegiate institutions in fall 1980, representing 53 percent of total enrollment. Women were in the majority at the undergraduate and graduate levels and comprised 34 percent of those enrolled in professional programs.

- Enrollment of women grew 20 percent from 1976 to 1980, while enrollment of men declined 1 percent. Increased female enrollment is largely in the part-time undergraduate category.

- Undergraduate women, independent of age, are more likely than men to enroll on a part-time basis (43.8 percent compared to 36.7 percent).

- At the graduate level, 74.3 percent of women were enrolled part time in fall 1980, compared to 70.8 percent of men. Women constitute more than 67 percent of the graduate enrollment at the State Colleges and less than 44 percent at independent institutions.

- Women received 59.8 percent of the associate degrees, 50.1 percent of the bachelors degrees and 52.4 percent of the masters degrees awarded in June 1980.[1] In the same year, they received 29.1 percent of the doctoral degrees and 27.3 percent of the first-professional degrees.

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[1]Masters degrees are defined to include the Certificate of Advanced Study throughout this report. There were 111 such awards in 1980.

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- In June 1980, 25 percent of the men graduating at the baccalaureate level received degrees in business and management, compared to 12.5 percent of the women. At the graduate level, 33 percent of the men received masters degrees in this field, compared to 10 percent of the women.

- Women received 75 percent of the bachelors and masters degrees awarded in the field of education in June 1980.

Women became the majority of students in Connecticut institutions of higher education in fall 1978, and in that same academic year were awarded, for the first time, more than half of all the degrees conferred. One year later, bachelors degrees were conferred on more women than men for the first time.

By fall 1980, 84,838 women were enrolled in Connecticut collegiate institutions, representing 53 percent of the total enrollment. As Table 1 shows, however, men still outnumber women in the technical colleges, in professional programs and in graduate study in the independent institutions.

TABLE 1

WOMEN AS A PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL ENROLLMENT
BY TYPE OF INSTITUTION, LEVEL AND TYPE OF STUDENT
FALL 1980

Type of Institution	UNDERGRADUATE			GRADUATE			FIRST-PROFESSIONAL			TOTAL
	Full-time	Part-time	Total	Full-time	Part-time	Total	Full-time	Part-time	Total	
University of Connecticut. . .	48.9	53.4	49.4	51.5	53.8	52.8	48.6	36.4	44.3	50.2
UConn Health Center	-	-	-	-	-	-	26.3	-	26.3	26.3
State Colleges	54.3	53.7	54.1	64.7	67.8	67.4	-	-	-	57.0
Regional Community Colleges .	59.5	68.1	65.5	-	-	-	-	-	-	65.5
State Technical Colleges . . .	18.3	26.3	23.0	-	-	-	-	-	-	23.0
TOTAL, STATE INST.	51.3	59.4	55.0	55.3	62.8	60.9	36.2	36.4	36.2	55.5
4-Year National Independent[2].	46.8	66.6	47.5	42.9	45.2	43.3	33.9	56.9	34.8	45.5
4-year Regional Independent .	52.9	54.4	53.5	38.8	42.3	42.0	29.1	26.3	28.1	50.5
2-Year Independent	73.5	67.6	71.4	-	-	-	-	-	-	71.4
TOTAL, INDEPENDENT INST.	51.4	55.2	52.7	42.1	42.6	42.5	32.7	32.3	32.7	49.7
TOTAL, ALL INSTITUTIONS . (Including U.S. Coast Guard)	50.9	58.2	53.8	47.9	52.3	51.1	34.0	34.2	34.1	53.0

[2]A four-year independent institution is a "national" institution if more than 65 percent of the full-time undergraduates are from out-of-state and total enrollment exceeds 300 students (i.e., Connecticut College, Trinity College, Wesleyan University, and Yale University). "Regional" institutions are all other four-year independent institutions.

The total enrollment of women increased 2^ percent (14,133) over the five-year period 1976 to 1980, while total enrollment of men declined 637 students, or 1 percent. Table 2 shows these enrollment changes in more detail. Total headcount enrollment increased by 13,496 students over the period 1976 to 1980. Seventy-six percent of this growth is attributable to the increased enrollment of women as part-time undergraduate students.

TABLE 2

HEADCOUNT ENROLLMENT
BY LEVEL, TYPE OF STUDENT AND GENDER
1976 - 1980

	UNDERGRADUATE				GRADUATE				FIRST-PROFESSIONAL			
	Full-Time		Part-Time		Full-Time		Part-Time		Full-Time		Part-Time	
	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women
1976	41,223	36,955	19,460	20,293	3,926	2,791	9,554	9,960	1,527	608	163	98
1977	39,998	37,790	20,944	23,392	3,973	2,802	9,560	10,509	1,509	758	163	113
1978	38,007	37,528	21,763	26,917	3,677	2,849	9,859	10.707	1,735	755	315	130
1979	37,509	38,659	21,609	28,571	3,699	3,210	9,627	10,674	1,738	795	304	161
1980	37,815	39,171	21,926	30,550	3,944	3,621	9,535	10,465	1,680	867	316	164
Headcount change from 1976	-3,408	+2,216	+2,466	+10,257	+18	+830	19	+505	+153	+259	+153	+66
Percent change from 1976	-8.3%	+6.0%	+12.7%	+50.5%	+0.5%	+29.7%	-0.2%	+5.1%	+10.0%	+42.6%	+93.9%	+67.3%

Undergraduate Enrollment

The number of women enrolling at the undergraduate level increased by 12,473 students or 28.5 percent during the period 1976 to 1980. Four out of five of the additional women enrolled on a part-time basis. Decline in enrollment for undergraduate men was 942 students, or 1.6 percent. This decline was evident in all types of institutions with the exception of the State Technical Colleges. In contrast, headcount enrollment of women grew in all types of institutions between 1976 and 1980. The greatest growth (5,794) was in the Regional Community Colleges, accounting for 46.4 percent of the overall change in enrollment of women at the undergraduate level. The proportional representation of women also increased in all types of institutions, except for four-year regional independent institutions (Figure 1).

FIGURE 1

WOMEN AS A PERCENTAGE OF UNDERGRADUATE ENROLLMENT
BY TYPE OF INSTITUTION
1976 and 1980

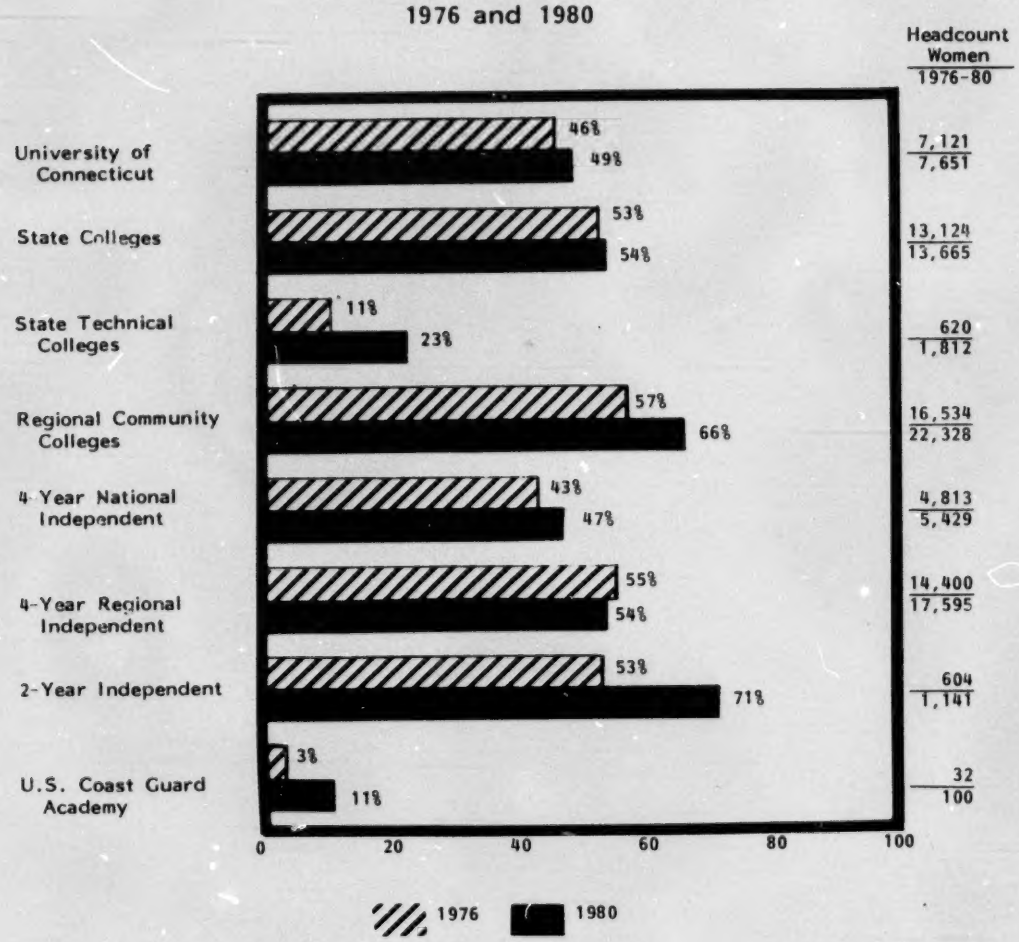

Table 3 shows the rank order of the distribution of undergraduate men and women across types of institutions. Although 32 percent of female students attend the Regional Community Colleges, compared to 20 percent of men, this difference in utilization of the two-year public system disappears when enrollments at the community colleges and the technical colleges are combined. When the data are adjusted in this manner, the enrollments of men and women are similarly distributed across categories of institutions.[3]

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[3] Chi-square (5)=1.297, p>.05.

TABLE 3

DISTRIBUTION OF UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS
BY TYPE OF INSTITUTION AND GENDER
1980

MEN			WOMEN		
Rank Order of Type of Institution	Number Enrolled	Percent of Total	Rank Order of Type of Institution	Number Enrolled	Percent of Total
4-Year Regional Independent	15,275	26%	Regional Community Colleges	22,328	32%
Regional Community Colleges	11,754	20%	4-Year Regional Independent	17,595	25%
State Colleges	11,587	19%	State Colleges	13,665	20%
University of Connecticut	7,820	13%	University of Connecticut	7,651	11%
State Technical Colleges	6,048	10%	4-Year National Independent	5,429	8%
4-Year National Independent	5,996	10%	State Technical Colleges	1,812	3%
U.S. Coast Guard Academy	805	1%	2-Year Independent	1,141	2%
2-Year Independent	456	1%	U.S. Coast Guard Academy	100	0%
TOTAL	59,741	100%	TOTAL	69,721	100%

Table 4 provides information on the age distribution of male and female undergraduates in fall 1980. Almost 90 percent of the men who enrolled full time and 88 percent of the women who enrolled full time are of traditional college-going age (18-24). Part-time students are older, with 62 percent of the men and 64 percent of the women older than the traditional college-going age. Part-time women students are more likely than men to be in the upper age categories (Table 4), but this difference in distribution is not statistically significant.[4]

TABLE 4

AGE DISTRIBUTION OF UNDERGRADUATES
BY TYPE OF STUDENT AND GENDER
1980

	FULL-TIME		PART-TIME	
Age Group	Men	Women	Men	Women
18-19	40.5%	43.6%	8.2%	9.8%
20-24	49.1%	44.6%	29.9%	26.5%
25-29	6.4%	5.1%	25.5%	19.8%
30-34	2.2%	2.8%	15.8%	14.8%
35-39	0.8%	1.8%	9.9%	10.6%
40-44	0.4%	1.0%	4.2%	6.6%
45-59	0.4%	0.8%	4.5%	8.6%
60+	0.1%	0.2%	2.0%	3.3%

[4] Chi-square (7)=3.256, p>0.5.

The difference in age pattern between part-time and full-time students persists in all types of institutions (Table 5), except at the University of Connecticut, where the median age for men is 20-24 for both groups.

TABLE 5

MEDIAN AGE CATEGORY OF UNDERGRADUATES
BY TYPE OF INSTITUTION, TYPE OF STUDENT AND GENDER
1980

Type of Institution	FULL-TIME		PART-TIME	
	Men	Women	Men	Women
University of Connecticut	20-24	20-24	20-24	25-29
State Colleges	20-24	20-24	25-29	25-29
Regional Community Colleges	20-24	20-24	25-29	25-29
State Technical Colleges	20-24	20-24	25-29	25-29
Total, State Institutions	20-24	20-24	25-29	25-29
4-Year National Independent	20-24	15-19	n.a.	n.a.
4-Year Regional Independent	20-24	20-24	25-29	25-29
2-Year Independent	15-19	15-19	25-29	30-34
Total, All Institutions	20-24	20-24	25-29	25-29

n.a.=not available.

The only additional difference in median age between men and women, by type of institution, appears at the four-year national independent institutions, where women are somewhat younger on the average than men. Other studies have shown that women are more likely than men to graduate within the first four years after high school, and this tendency may explain the age differential.[5]

Currently, 43.8 percent of undergraduate women enroll on a part-time basis, compared to 36.7 percent of men. In 1976, 37.4 percent of women were enrolled part time, compared to 32.1 percent of the men. Thus, while the shift to enrollment on a part-time basis is apparent for both groups, it is greater for women than men.

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[5]Bruce K. Eckland and Joseph M Wisenbaker, "A Capsule Description of Young Adults Four and One-half Years After High School," NCES, February 1979.

The dramatic growth in the enrollment of part-time female students is likely to be related to an increased rate of enrollment of women who are older than 24, but the cross-sectional nature of the age data precludes an empirical examination of this hypothesis. However, since 63.7 percent of part-time female undergraduates are over 24 (Table 6), it is reasonable to assume that most of the growth has occurred in this category. It is likely that the growth in the enrollment of nontraditional-age women will slow. Traditional-age women are now enrolling in college at the same rate as men (51.9 percent of Connecticut's 18-to-24-year-old undergraduates are women, compared to 52 percent of its high school graduates).[6] As the delayed demand for higher education is met, the participation rate of nontraditional-age female students in undergraduate education may decline.

TABLE 6

UNDERGRADUATE ENROLLMENT
BY AGE, GENDER AND TYPE OF STUDENT
1980

	MEN			WOMEN			TOTAL		
Age Category	Full-time	Part-time	Total	Full-time	Part-time	Total	Full-time	Part-time	Total
15-24	33,882	8,354	42,236	34,549	11,090	45,639	68,431	19,444	87,875
24+	3,933	13,572	17,505	4,622	19,460	24,082	8,555	33,032	41,587

Graduate and First-Professional Enrollment

In fall 1980, 51.1 percent of Connecticut's graduate students were women, compared to 48.6 percent in 1976. In 1980, 34.1 percent of first-professional students were women, compared to 29.5 percent in 1976. Over half of the graduate students now enrolled at the University of Connecticut are women, as are more than two out of every three graduate students at the State Colleges. Graduate students in the independent institutions, however, are still more likely to be men than women (Figure 2).

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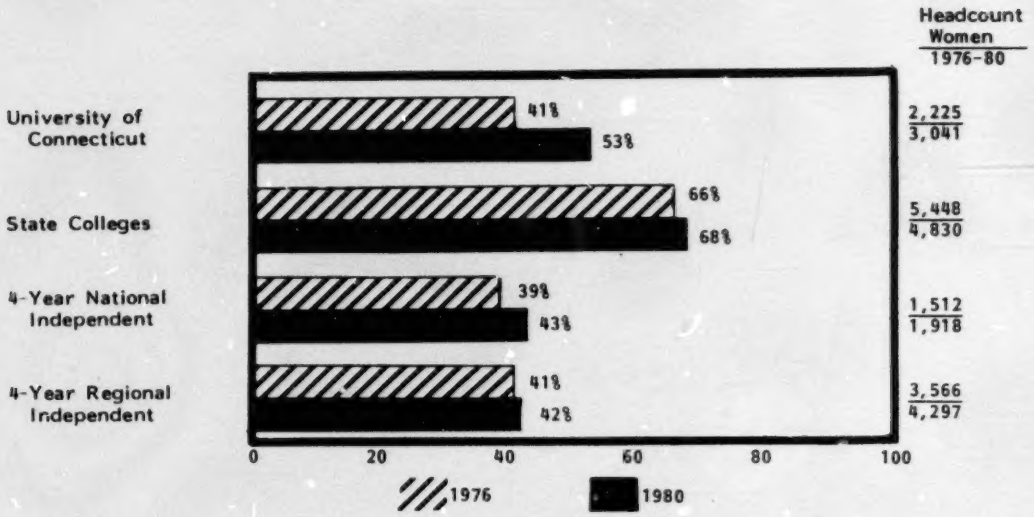
[6]This proportion has been constant over the period 1970-1979.

FIGURE 2

WOMEN AS A PERCENTAGE OF GRADUATE ENROLLMENT
BY TYPE OF INSTITUTION
1976 and 1980



The number of men enrolled full time in graduate programs has remained fairly constant over the five-year period 1976 to 1980 (Table 2) while the full-time enrollment of women continues to increase. In the part-time category, enrollment peaked in 1978 for both groups. The proportion of female graduate students enrolled on a part-time basis is now 74.3 percent, compared to 78.1 percent in 1976 and 79 percent in 1978. The proportion of men enrolling on a part-time basis has fluctuated between 70.7 and 72.8 percent over the five-year period.

Table 7 shows the distribution of male and female graduate students among types of institutions in 1976 and 1978. The pattern of distribution is significantly different for men and women.[7] For example, in 1980, 44 percent of men were in four-year regional independent institutions, compared to 31 percent of women. On the other hand, 34 percent of women were attending State Colleges, compared to 17 percent of male graduate students. The number of men enrolled in state institutions in fall 1980 declined by 944 from 1976. At the same time, their enrollment in the four-year regional independent institutions increased by 826 students. The number of women enrolled at the University of Connecticut increased by 816 students,

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[7] Chi-square (3)=8.768, $p<0.5$.

while the number enrolled at the State Colleges declined by 618 students. The number of women enrolled in four-year regional independent institutions increased by 731 between 1976 and 1980. In total, the State Colleges enrolled 1,130 fewer graduate students in 1980 than in 1976, a decline of almost 14 percent. The regional independent institutions increased their enrollment by 1,557 graduate students over the same period.

TABLE 7

DISTRIBUTION OF GRADUATE STUDENTS
BY TYPE OF INSTITUTION AND GENDER
1976 and 1980

Type of Institution	MEN			WOMEN		
	Rank	Number Enrolled	Percent	Rank	Number Enrolled	Percent
		1976				
University of Connecticut	2	3,148	23%	3	2,225	17%
State Colleges	3	2,852	21%	1	5,448	43%
4-Year National Independent	4	2,378	18%	4	1,512	12%
4-Year Regional Independent	1	5,102	39%	2	3,566	28%
		1980				
University of Connecticut	2	2,716	20%	3	3,041	22%
State Colleges	4	2,340	17%	1	4,830	34%
4-Year National Independent	3	2,495	19%	4	1,918	12%
4-Year Regonal Independent	1	5,928	44%	2	4,297	31%

Women continue to be underrepresented in professional programs, but some progress has been made over the period 1976 to 1980 (Figure 3). First-professional programs are defined to include the medical sciences, law and theology. Enrollment at the University of Connecticut consists of those enrolled in law. The Health Center is shown separately. Enrollment in four-year regional independent institutions consists of those enrolled in the law program at the University of Bridgeport, while enrollment in the four-year national institutions consists only of enrollment at Yale University, where 31.4 percent of the medical students in 1980 were women, compared to 32.3 percent of the law students and 42.8 percent of the theology students.

FIGURE 3

WOMEN AS A PERCENT OF FIRST-PROFESSIONAL ENROLLMENT
BY TYPE OF INSTITUTION
1976 and 1980

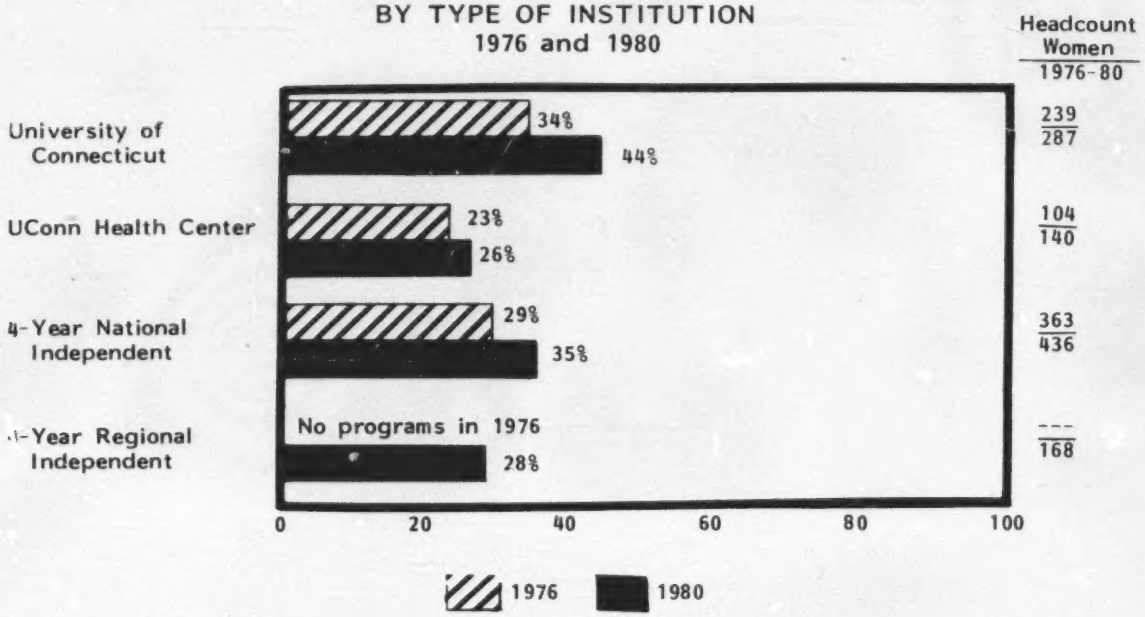

Table 8 shows the age distribution of graduate and first-professional students by type of institution. While women enrolled in the regional independent institutions are, on the average, older than men in these institutions, this finding is reversed for part-time female students at the University of Connecticut, who are younger, on the average, than male part-time graduate or first-professional students.

TABLE 8

MEDIAN AGE CATEGORY OF GRADUATE AND
FIRST-PROFESSIONAL STUDENTS
BY TYPE OF INSTITUTION, TYPE OF STUDENT AND GENDER
1980

Type of Institution	FULL-TIME		PART-TIME	
	Men	Women	Men	Women
University of Connecticut	25-29	25-29	30-34	25-29
State Colleges	25-29	25-29	30-34	30-34
4-Year National Independent	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
4-Year Regional Independent	25-29	30-34	25-29	30-34

n.a.=not available.

Degrees Conferred

In the academic year 1978-1979, women for the first time received the majority of degrees awarded. One year later, bachelors degrees were conferred on more women than men for the first time. Table 9 shows the distribution of degrees conferred during the academic year 1979-1980. Women received the majority of bachelors, masters and associates degrees and awards below the associate degree, compared to 29.1 percent of doctoral degrees and 27.3 percent of first-professional degrees. Eighty-two percent of the degrees awarded to men were at the bachelors level or higher, compared to 75 percent for women.

TABLE 9

DEGREES CONFERRED BY LEVEL
1979-1980

Level of Degree	Men	Women	Total
FIRST PROFESSIONAL			
Number of Degrees Awarded	685	257	942
Percent in Degree Category	72.7%	27.3%	
Percent in Gender Category	5.4%	1.9%	3.6%
DOCTORAL			
Number of Degrees Awarded	355	149	504
Percent in Degree Category	70.9%	29.1%	
Percent in Gender Category	2.8%	1.1%	1.9%
MASTERS AND OTHER ADVANCED DEGREES			
Number of Degrees Awarded	2,899	3,191	6,090
Percent in Degree Category	47.6%	52.4%	
Percent in Gender Category	22.6%	23.4%	23.1%
BACHELORS			
Number of Degrees Awarded	6,566	6,600	13,166
Percent in Degree Category	49.9%	50.1%	
Percent in Gender Category	51.3%	48.4%	49.8%
ASSOCIATES			
Number of Degrees Awarded	2,173	3,235	5,408
Percent in Degree Category	40.2%	59.8%	
Percent in Gender Category	17.0%	23.8%	20.4%
AWARDS BELOW ASSOCIATE			
Number of Degrees Awarded	118	189	307
Percent in Degree Category	38.4%	61.6%	
Percent in Gender Category	0.9%	1.4%	1.2%
TOTAL	12,796	13,621	26,417
	48.4%	51.6%	100%

Table 10 shows degrees conferred by type of institution for the academic year 1979-1980. Seventy percent of the associates degrees awarded to women were conferred by public institutions, compared to 82.6 percent of the awards to men. At the bachelors and masters levels, the majority of men obtained degrees from independent institutions, while the majority of women graduated from public institutions. Women received 52.9 percent of the bachelors degrees awarded by public institutions in 1979-1980, compared to 47.1 percent of those awarded by independent institutions. At the masters level, these proportions were 62.1 percent and 43.4 percent, respectively. The majority of doctoral degrees for both men and women were awarded by independent institutions. Women received 33.5 percent of the doctoral degrees awarded by public institutions, compared to 27.1 percent of those awarded by independent institutions.

TABLE 10

SUMMARY OF DEGREES CONFERRED BY TYPE OF INSTITUTION, LEVEL AND GENDER 1979-1980

Type of Institution	ASSOCIATES		BACHELORS		MASTERS		DOCTORAL	
	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women
University of Connecticut	-	-	1,464	1,461	616	573	129	65
State Colleges	29	38	1,541	2,095	498	1,250	-	-
Regional Community Colleges	1,133	2,072	-	-	-	-	-	-
State Technical Colleges	587	127	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bd. for State Academic Awards	47	28	61	34	-	-	-	-
Total, State Inst.	1,796	2,265	3,066	3,590	1,114	1,823	129	65
U.S. Coast Guard Academy	-	-	141	14	-	-	-	-
4-Year National Independent	-	-	1,533	1,218	721	515	219	83
4-Year Regional Independent	297	595	1,824	1,778	1,064	853	7	1
2-Year Independent	80	375	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total, Independent Inst.	377	970	3,369	2,816	1,785	1,368	226	84
TOTAL, ALL INSTITUTIONS	2,173	3,235	6,566	6,600	2,899	3,191	355	149

Table 11 shows the distribution of degrees conferred in 1980 by discipline. Women are disproportionately represented in the field of education, where they obtained 76.8 percent of the bachelors degrees and 73.0 percent of the masters degrees. In contrast, men were awarded 67.5 percent of the bachelors degrees in business and management, and 74.5 percent of the masters degrees. Table 11 also shows the preference of men and women among disciplines. In 1980, business and management was the most popular field among men, while education continued to be most attractive to women. The social sciences are popular among both men and women at the bachelors level, but considerably less so at the graduate level.

TABLE 11

DISTRIBUTION OF DEGREES CONFERRED BY DISCIPLINE, LEVEL AND GENDER 1979-1980

Discipline	BACHELORS				MASTERS				DOCTORAL			
	Men		Women		Men		Women		Men		Women	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Agriculture	103	1.6%	111	1.7%	43	1.5%	34	1.1%	5	1.4%	1	-
Architecture	23	0.4%	11	0.2%	32	1.1%	24	0.8%	-	-	-	-
Area Studies	68	1.0%	94	1.4%	11	0.4%	21	0.6%	3	0.8%	4	2.7%
Biological Sciences	418	6.4%	341	5.2%	104	3.6%	83	2.6%	43	12.1%	20	13.4%
Business & Management	1,670	25.4%	804	12.2%	930	32.1%	319	10.0%	4	1.1%	1	-
Communications	93	1.4%	94	1.4%	34	1.2%	31	1.0%	-	-	-	-
Computer & Info Sciences	105	1.6%	33	0.5%	57	2.0%	17	0.5%	7	2.0%	1	-
Education	297	4.5%	995	15.1%	627	21.6%	1,698	53.2%	36	10.1%	30	20.1%
Engineering	692	10.6%	52	0.8%	176	6.1%	5	0.2%	18	5.1%	1	-
Fine & Applied Arts	204	3.1%	383	5.8%	118	4.1%	123	3.8%	15	4.2%	11	7.4%
Foreign Languages	57	0.9%	178	2.7%	22	0.8%	30	1.0%	14	4.0%	19	13.1%
Health Professions	125	1.9%	746	11.3%	69	2.4%	195	6.1%	6	1.7%	4	2.7%
Home Economics	10	0.2%	202	3.1%	4	0.1%	13	0.4%	1	-	1	-
Law	3	-	10	0.2%	19	0.7%	11	0.4%	2	-	-	-
Letters	394	6.0%	591	9.0%	41	1.4%	63	2.0%	42	11.8%	13	8.7%
Library Sciences	2	-	5	0.1%	23	0.8%	93	2.9%	-	-	-	-
Mathematics	120	1.8%	71	1.1%	13	0.4%	19	0.6%	13	3.7%	2	1.3%
Physical Sciences	278	4.2%	91	1.4%	72	2.5%	18	0.6%	51	14.4%	8	5.4%
Psychology	281	4.3%	470	7.1%	72	2.5%	102	3.2%	19	5.4%	10	6.7%
Public Affairs	210	3.2%	236	3.6%	118	4.1%	119	3.7%	-	-	-	-
Social Sciences	1,226	18.7%	875	13.3%	138	4.8%	73	2.3%	70	19.7%	22	14.8%
Theology	-	-	-	-	34	1.2%	36	1.1%	6	1.7%	1	-
Interdisciplinary	187	2.8%	207	3.1%	1	-	12	0.4%	-	-	-	-
Master of Philosophy	-	-	-	-	141	4.9	62	1.9%	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	6,566	100%	6,600	100%	2,899	100%	3,191	100%	355		149	

Discipline	ASSOCIATES				Discipline	FIRST-PROFESSIONAL			
	Men		Women			Men		Women	
	Number	%	Number	%		Number	%	Number	%
Arts & Sciences	676	31.1%	946	29.2%	Medical Sci.	186	27.2%	46	17.9%
Data Processing Technologies	167	7.7%	132	4.1%	Law	439	64.1%	156	60.7%
Health Services & Paramedical Techns	103	4.7%	675	20.9%	Theology	60	8.7%	55	21.4%
Mechanical & Engineering Technologies	543	25.0%	41	1.3%					
Natural Science Tehnologies	11	0.5%	15	0.5%					
Business & Commerce Tehnologies	476	21.9%	1,065	32.9%					
Public Service Related Technologies	197	9.1%	361	11.2%					
TOTAL	2,173	100%	3,235	100%	TOTAL	685	100%	257	100%

The forthcoming BHE Report, "Degrees Conferred in Connecticut, 1970-1980," will provide an historical perspective on the disciplinary choices of students at all degree levels. In order to provide an indication of these trends, Table 12 presents the numbers of masters degrees awarded to men and women in 1976 and 1980 by major category.

TABLE 12

MASTERS DEGREES AND CERTIFICATES OF ADVANCED STUDY
1976 and 1980

	EDUCATION		BUSINESS		OTHER MASTERS	
	1976	1980	1976	1980	1976	1980
Men	1,075	627	561	930	1,611	1,342
Women	2,225	1,698	58	319	1,192	1,174

For men, education as a field of study was most popular in 1976, with 33.1 percent of the masters degrees awarded in this field, compared to 17.3 percent in the field of business and management. By 1980, these ratios has become 21.6 percent and 31.1 percent, respectively. There has been a clear shift from education to business and management during the period 1976 and 1980. This shift is also evident in women's choices, where 64.0 percent of masters degrees awarded in 1976 were in education, compared to 53.2 percent in 1980. In 1976, only 1.7 percent of masters degrees awarded to women were in business and management, compared to 10 percent in 1980.

While both men and women are choosing the field of education less often in 1980 than in 1976, men have moved away somewhat more rapidly than women. In 1976, 67.4 percent of the masters degrees in education were awarded to women, compared to 73.0 percent in 1980. On the other hand, women have substantially improved their representation among recipients of business and management degrees. In 1976, they received only 9.4 percent of these awards, compared to 25.5 percent in 1980.

Summary

Women are now participating in Connecticut higher education in parity with men. Higher education has not been immune from, and indeed probably has contributed to, the growing achievement of women in American society. Connecticut women in higher education obtain as many degrees as men at the associates, bachelors and masters level of study, and have increased their share of doctoral and first-professional degrees.

Women continue to gain ground in traditionally male areas of study. The number of women enrolled in the State Technical Colleges nearly tripled during the period 1976 to 1980, and their proportional representation increased from 11 percent to 23 percent. More women are participating in professional education and in the field of business and management.

Despite significant gains on the part of women, they continue to be underrepresented in those fields that provide access to traditional male employment opportunities and overrepresented in the field of education. Continued efforts need to be made to encourage women to explore a broad range of career opportunities.

This report was prepared by Jennifer Presley, Assistant Director, Office of Research, Management Information and Student Financial Assistance, Board of Higher Education.